



San Juan, Puerto Rico

**PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Consolato REM Brega!!! consolidates “Baile, Botella y Baraja - José Ruiz entre la Botella y el Lienzo y su Narración Naïf de Puerto Rico” as one of the “15 Must-See Events” of the 61. International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia**

**Roberto Escobar Molina expands the global visibility of Puerto Rican art at Biennale Arte 2026**

**Venice, Italy, 2026** – From La Placita de Santurce in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the island reaffirms its cultural presence in one of the world’s most influential artistic platforms with *Baile, Botella y Baraja - José Ruiz entre la Botella y el Lienzo y su Narración Naïf de Puerto Rico*, an Official Collateral Event of the 61. International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, organized by Consolato REM Brega!!!, curated by Roberto Escobar Molina (REM Escobar), and featuring collaborating artist Mónica Parada.

Following its participation in Biennale Arte 2024 with the Collateral Event *Desde San Juan Bautista...*, Consolato REM Brega returned to Venice with an exhibition exclusively dedicated to Puerto Rican artist José Ruiz, reaffirming its institutional commitment to the international projection of Puerto Rican art and cultural narratives.



Following the official opening of Biennale Arte 2026 on May 9, 2026, the project has received international attention for its curatorial proposal and its critical approach to historical memory and Puerto Rican popular culture. The exhibition was recognized by CONTEMPORARY LYNX, a platform specializing in contemporary art and curatorial criticism, as one of the “15 Must-See Events Enriching the Venice Biennale 2026 Experience,” expanding the project’s reach within the international contemporary art circuit.

The project has also been featured by international media outlets including VeneziaNews.it, Venice Insider Guide, ArtRabbit, and the German magazine KUNSTFORUM International, strengthening its presence within European curatorial discourse and the specialized contemporary art circuit. In Puerto Rico, the project was covered by El Nuevo Día, reinforcing its visibility within the island’s cultural press and its positioning within the context of La Biennale di Venezia.

Additionally, Roberto Escobar Molina’s curatorial work was highlighted by CGTN (CCTV International) London, the international division of China’s state broadcaster CCTV, with editorial centers in Beijing, Washington D.C., and London, and global multilingual reach. The coverage examined his curatorial practice within the context of the Biennale Arte 2024 and the Biennale Arte 2026, emphasizing Puerto Rico’s presence within international discussions on contemporary art, memory, and visual culture.

This project is presented at REM Project, a Puerto Rican gallery and international contemporary art initiative that inaugurated its Venice space on April 1, 2026, establishing a new platform for cultural exchange between Puerto Rico and Italy. As part of its commitment to the international promotion of Puerto Rican art, REM Project provides space, production, and curatorial support for Consolato REM Brega!!! within the framework of Biennale Arte 2026.

Under the direction of founder Roberto Escobar Molina and operational director Veronica Piras, REM Project functions as a cultural facilitator and production



platform for artists and interdisciplinary projects connecting the Caribbean and Europe. Among its collaborations is the participation of Mónica Parada, whose practice integrates performance, installation, video, and sound experimentation.

Through these collaborations, REM Project fosters the development of performative and immersive proposals while encouraging the circulation of artists, ideas, and projects between Puerto Rico and Venice, strengthening contemporary dialogues on identity, territory, and transnational cultural practices.

*Baile, Botella y Baraja* presents José Ruiz as a historical narrator whose work constitutes a visual archive of Puerto Rico's social and colonial realities. Through a non-academic aesthetic, the artist developed over more than six decades a visual chronicle in which everyday life, public spaces, and communal practices become collective memory.

The exhibition addresses fundamental historical processes including early colonization, the encomienda system, the devastation of the Taíno population, the arrival of enslaved Africans following the Asiento of 1518, and the subsequent economic transformation shaped by sugar monoculture, as well as their effects on the construction of Puerto Rican cultural identity.

### **Puerto Rican Card and Domino Tournament in Venice**

Parallel to José Ruiz's exhibition, collaborating artist Mónica Parada developed the participatory performance *Torneo de Cartas & Dominó*. Her proposal engages with Ruiz's visual narrative and themes of memory, play, and popular culture, connecting Puerto Rico and Venice through shared social practices.

The project also incorporated a cultural hospitality program developed during the exhibition's opening days and as part of the closing activities of Biennale Arte 2026. As part of this activation, attendees were invited to experience Puerto Rican rum and "sandwiches de mezcla" created by Chef Millie, a Puerto Rican culinary



artist based in Venice, who reinterpreted the Venetian tramezzino through Puerto Rican gastronomic references.

The sculptural tables used for Brisca and Domino games were initially activated in Venice and will later continue their journey in Puerto Rico through community tournaments at La Placita de Santurce during Noches de Galería de Santurce, in collaboration with cultural and community partners. As part of the project's cultural exchange, a selection of the tables will return to Venice to be integrated into the exhibition's closing activities in November 2026.

Seeing José Ruiz's work in dialogue and collaboration with Mónica Parada presented as an Official Collateral Event of the 61. International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia represents a historic moment for Puerto Rico and for our team. The project's international reception confirms the place our cultural narratives occupy within contemporary artistic discourse," stated Roberto Escobar Molina, reflecting on the achievements reached during Consolato REM Brega!!!'s second participation in La Biennale di Venezia

Consolato REM Brega extends its gratitude to its institutional collaborators, including REM Project and A'LiSt [PR] Art Gallery, as well as its cultural and community partners in Puerto Rico, including Tu Coop and Fundación Cultural García, in addition to its collaborators and cultural partners throughout Europe.

The exhibition *Baile, Botella y Baraja - José Ruiz entre la Botella y el Lienzo y su Narración Naïf de Puerto Rico* is presented from May 9 through November 22, 2026, at REM Project, Via Giuseppe Garibaldi 1735, Castello, Venice, Italy, with free admission to the public.

#### **Press Contact**

Roberto Escobar Molina

Founder, Consolato REM Brega

Email: [info@consolatorem.org](mailto:info@consolatorem.org)

Phone: +1 (787) 547-5757

Website: [www.consolatorem.org](http://www.consolatorem.org)

Address: Via Giuseppe Garibaldi 1735, Castello, Venice, Italy



La Biennale di Venezia

61. Esposizione  
Internazionale  
d'Arte

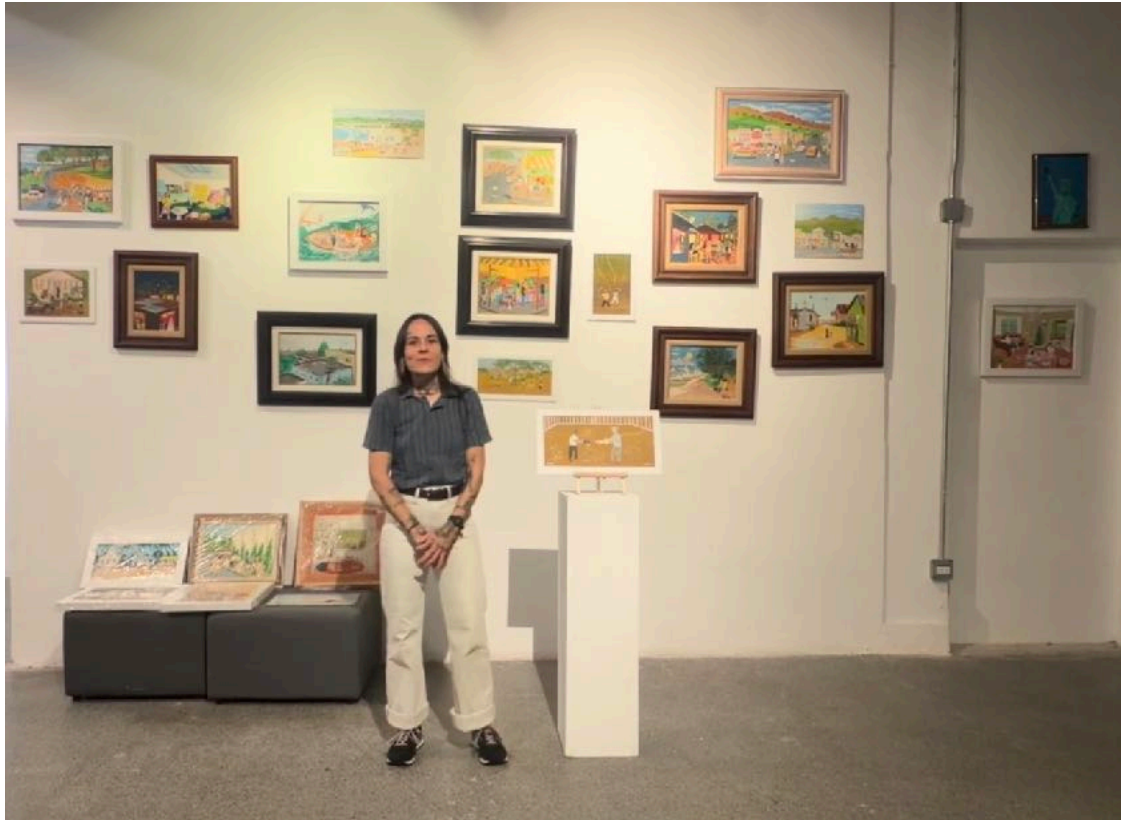
Eventi Collaterali



Jose Ruiz. Domino Game, 1989. 11" x 14" inches . Aurora Paint, Nail Paint / wood



Pre-Opening Days, Tournament Days.



Artist Monica Parada Behind Jose Ruiz's Art Works

Curator REM Escobar.

